

# San Francisco Bay Mercury TMDL Basin Plan Amendment



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# Hearing On Mercury TMDL Basin Plan Amendment

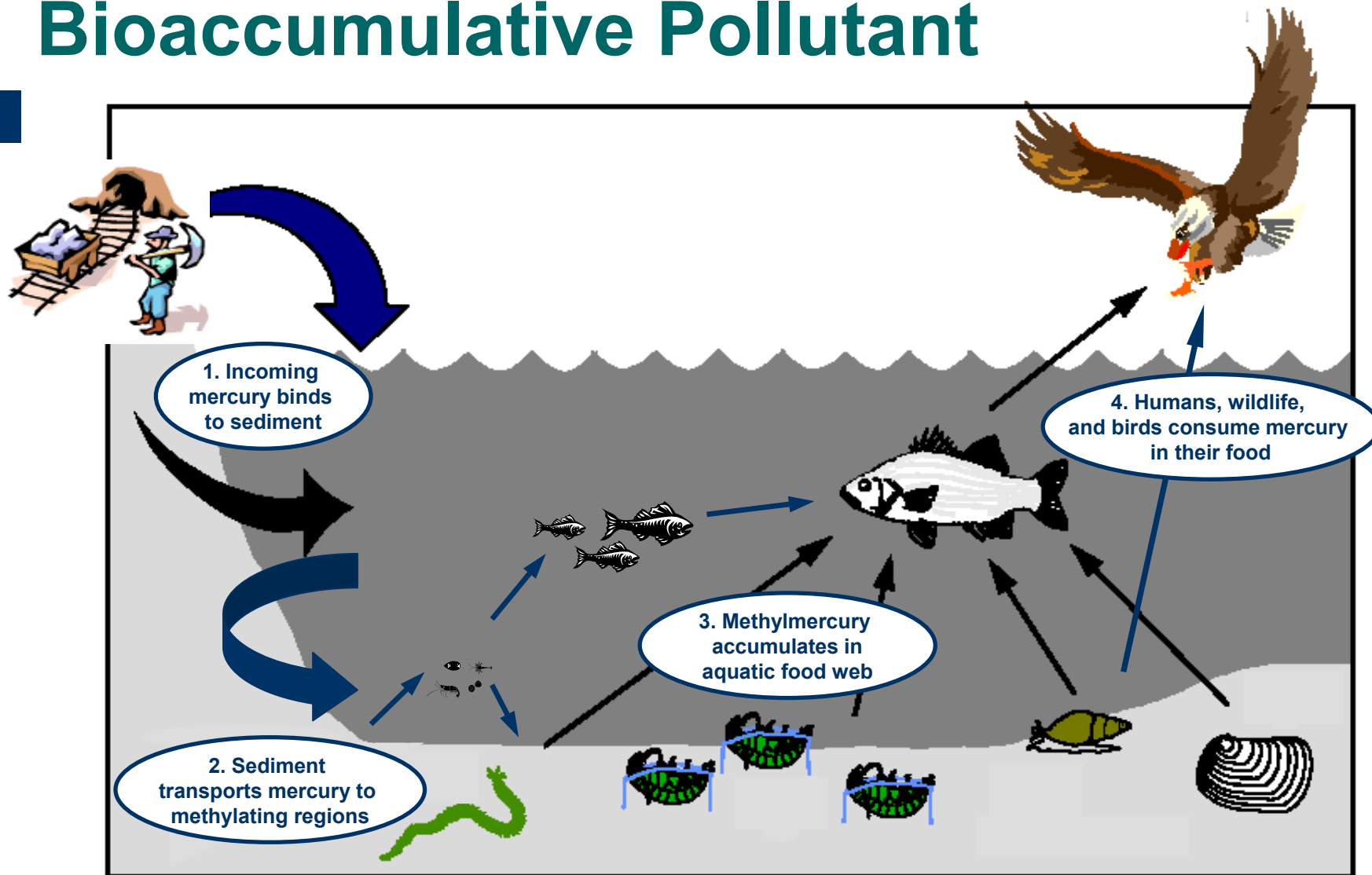
- Process To Date
  - Project reports
  - Stakeholders meetings
  - Scientific peer review
  - Formal public review
- Today's Hearing
  - Introduce draft Basin Plan Amendment
  - Allow public opportunity for input
  - Obtain Board feedback and direction



# Mercury TMDL Covers All Bay Segments



# Mercury Is Toxic, Persistent, Bioaccumulative Pollutant



# San Francisco Bay Does Not Fully Support Beneficial Uses

- Sport Fishing
  - Fish consumption advisory
- Wildlife Habitat
  - Bird egg hatch failures
- Preservation of Rare and Endangered Species
  - California least tern



striped bass



California least tern

# Targets Define Success and Can Be Used to Track Progress

- Human Health Target
  - 0.2 ppm mercury in fish tissue
- Wildlife Target
  - <0.5 ppm mercury in bird eggs
  - Also protects rare & endangered species
- Sediment Target
  - 0.2 ppm mercury in suspended sediment
  - Useful in setting allocations
- ~40-50% Mercury Reduction Needed





# Current Mercury Loads and Proposed Allocations

SOURCE	EXISTING LOAD (kg/yr)	ALLOCATION (kg/yr)
Bed Erosion	460	220
Central Valley Watershed	440	330
Urban Runoff	160	82
Guadalupe River Watershed	92	2
Atmospheric Deposition	27	27
Rural Runoff	25	25
Wastewater	16	16
Dredging and Disposal	net loss	≤ ambient concentration
TOTAL	1,220	702



# Implementation Will Attain Standards

- Reduce Controllable Loads
  - Achieve allocations → Meet targets
- Reduce Methylmercury Production
- Monitor and Study
  - Address uncertainties
  - Assess progress in meeting targets and allocations
  - Facilitate adaptive implementation
- Encourage Actions That Reduce Multiple Pollutants
  - Exemplify good stewardship



# Implementation Plan Addresses Each Source

SOURCE	IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
Bed Erosion	Let nature take its course, but seek options
Central Valley Watershed	Implement Central Valley TMDLs
Urban Runoff	Identify sources & implement controls
Guadalupe River Watershed	Implement Guadalupe River TMDL
Atmospheric Deposition	Seek ways to control
Rural Runoff	Target already met
Wastewater	Hold to current loads & study local effects
Dredging and Disposal	Limit disposal to ambient mercury concentration

# Issues and Concerns About Proposed Mercury TMDL

- Recovery Time
- Uncertainty
- Feasibility
- Costs
- Growth  
Implications
- Fairness
- Legal Issues
- Likelihood  
of Success



# Adaptive Implementation Will Address Outstanding Issues

- Acknowledge data needs and outstanding issues
- Monitor to:
  - Assess progress toward targets
  - Refine load estimates
- Conduct studies to assess:
  - Appropriateness of targets
  - Controllability of loads and methylation
- Commit to revisit decisions on TMDL elements about every 5 years
  - Substantial changes will require Basin Plan Amendment

# See You in September!

September 2004						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

- Respond to comments
  - Continue stakeholder meetings
- Revise Basin Plan Amendment
  - Logical outgrowths of comments
  - Responses to Board feedback
- Ask Board to act September 15, 2004
- Forward Basin Plan Amendment (if approved) to:
  - State Board
  - Office of Administrative Law
  - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency